

The Intelligencer

Office: Nos. 25 and 27 Fourteenth Street.

The whisky men are fighting ex-Auditor Miller as though all West Virginia were a prohibition camp.

I call the party to witness that I know what I want and am not ashamed to ask for it.—Thomas A. Hendricks.

Alack-a-day! and curse the cruel day, that we've witnessed to the Mugwump! say.—From the Hungry Huns, or Won and Lost, a Tragic Opera.

Your Uncle Joe McDonald lies him to Washington just to see whether anybody is wanted to sit up with Civil Service reform.

Sons—not many—of the Democratic newspapers object to the placing of Grant on the retired list. Didn't some of them object to what he was doing through the spectacles?

Ten gamblers have been having things pretty much their own way in Wheeling. They have made their man-trap-attractions, and there has been a great catch of young men. Does the Chief of Police think this ought to go on?

Secretary Manning gets a "character" from Harper's Weekly, which rises to remark that he is identified with the best men and soundest policies of his party.

Being in for it, the Weekly goes the whole figure. But the identification is rough on Bland and Thurman and Pendleton and that run of Democratic shad.

1884. FOR PRESIDENT, GROVER CLEVELAND, of New York.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT, THOMAS A. HENDRICKS, of Indiana.

1885. They Never Speak as They Pass By.

The Pittsburgh Times mustn't let its Washington correspondent speak of "a man named Miller" in connection with the Internal Revenue Commissionership. Mr. Miller isn't that kind of a man. He doesn't slide on our political car-door, and we have at times refused to spin tops with him for keeps; but he isn't altogether unknown in Washington and is very far from being a nobody.

Photographers complain that Cleveland's pictures don't sell. He is not a popular hero, he isn't a handsome man, and it is impossible to idealize his portrait to make it attractive. Have our photographers lost their enterprise? An instantaneous view of Cleveland when Hendricks and Voorhees were reading the riot act to him would have gone "like hot cakes." It would have taken its place beside Pocahontas and John Smith, Washington Crossing the Delaware, and other historical tableaux which have won enduring fame more because of the events they commemorate than for their high art merit.

Several typographical errors crept into the communication of Senator P. W. Morris in reply to Senator Price, printed last week. In one instance he was made to say "House bill" when it should have said "Mason bill." The types further put Mr. Morris in an egotistical position as saying, "I blighted the usefulness of the Senate." "I" should have read "it." It was the Democratic majority that blighted the usefulness of the Senate; and it was the hand of genius in Senator Morris' chirography that blighted the budding hopes of a compositor who has wrestled with the manuscript of the statement of two blemishes.

The alarming waste of property by fire in the United States—now over a hundred millions a year—attracts the increasing attention of insurance men. The Insurance Commissioner of Minnesota, referring to the law and to proposed legislation in his own State, uses language applicable to other States as well. He says: "The country needs legislation to prevent fire, not to promote them; and to preserve the insurable interest of the owners of the property insured, not to destroy it. In fact, I sometimes think it would be better for the country, on economic principles, if there were no insurance to be had. Fire losses would then be kept down to the lowest point."

If there were no such thing as fire insurance nobody would be tempted to "sell out" to the insurance companies, and there are very many honest people who would be much more careful of their property. The commissioner's extreme suggestion is made, of course, to bring into bold relief a matter which lies thoughtful men with alarm. The fire loss of a year equals two-thirds of the expenditure of the National Government and two-thirds as much as is raised by internal taxation.

The Intelligencer desires to have a little friendly chat with Mr. Porter Smith, Chief of Police. He has a nice new police force, and his admiring friends have decorated him with a nice new badge, with the expectation, no doubt, that he would wear it worthily.

We desire to ask the Chief of Police what are his views in general and in particular with regard to the enforcement of the law against gambling. Does he construe his oath of office as including gambling hell?

Has he reason to believe that any of these establishments are in operation very near to his headquarters? If he were to stand on the front steps of the City Building and throw stones promiscuously wouldn't he be in danger of smashing the windows of a few of them? If he were to make a sudden descent doesn't he think he might come upon a dozen of them in full blast, the most remote not fifteen minutes' walk from his office? If there is only one in sight doesn't he think it would be worth while to "pull" that? Or does he think the police force does its whole duty when it "runs in" an occasional "plain drunk" or starts a vagabond on the highway to the Workhouse?

The question for the Chief of Police to determine is a very plain one. He is to decide whether he will enforce the law and protect the public, or whether he will turn his back on the law and his oath and stand in with the gamblers.

A CIVIL SERVICE

VIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

The President of the Commission Does Not Think the Work of That Body Will Be Disregarded by Cleveland-Status of the Thompson-Miller Contest.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 15.—Dorman B. Eaton, President of the Civil Service Commission, in response to an inquiry to-day, as to the enforcement of the civil service rules by the new administration, said to an Associated Press reporter: "Vacancies are being regularly filled under the rules. There is not the least sign of the examinations being arrested or the rules being disregarded. When Congress at the session just closed made an increased appropriation for carrying out the work of the Commission it knew the policy of the incoming President, and must have expected the work of the Commission to go on. That work goes on regularly and I feel sure it will go on. Very many office-seekers who lingered here some time after the 4th of March, seem to have reached the same conclusion and have returned home. Since that date examinations have been held at Cincinnati, Nashville, Memphis, Brooklyn, New York and Washington. Applicants have been notified that examinations will soon be held in the Southern and Western States. Examinations and appointments go on as heretofore in the customs service and for clerical positions in the postoffice.

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS.

Excessive numbers are applying to be examined, especially for service at Washington, under the belief of arbitrary and partisan removals being made, or are soon to be made. I have heard of no cases of such removals and do not believe any such removals will be made. There will doubtless be some removals for good cause, but not enough to give place to half of those seeking to be examined. Old time partisan proscription is by no means the rule. Our policies are now more civilized, and sound public opinion is more formidable. Within the last ten days the commission has made certifications for filling eleven vacancies in the departments at Washington, which is about the usual rate, and five promotions and four permanent appointments after probation have been made from among those selected under the rules. Several of those cases were in the Treasury Department.

THE BIG FIGHT

Over the Commissionership of Internal Revenue—How it Stands.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—The contest for the Internal Revenue Commissionership still excites very general interest. The friends of Mr. Miller, of West Virginia, assert most positively that he has been selected for the position, and that his name will be sent to the Senate on Monday next. The friends of Mr. Thompson, of Kentucky, do not admit this. On the contrary, they seem, or at least some of them do, to be more hopeful than at any time during the last few days.

It is said that the President has been inclined to favor the appointment of Mr. Thompson, but adhering to his rule to leave questions of appointment to the heads of departments, respectively, he would not interfere with Secretary Manning. It was also stated to-day that Secretary Manning said he would yield and withdraw all objections to Mr. Thompson, if the President preferred his appointment. Senators Beck and Blackburn apparently have not abandoned hope, as they were still pressing Thompson to-day. Some friends of Mr. Thompson, however, are of opinion that he would not propose to take any notice of anonymous letters, no matter what their character, and that it will be useless to send them to him.

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IMPROVED FEELING

IN GENERAL TRADE MATTERS.

The Industrial Situation Worse Than Last Week—States Where Wheat Has Been Winter-Killed—Wool Market in Buyers' Favor—Decrease in Wages.

NEW YORK, March 14.—Bradstreet's Journal in its commercial summary says: Telegrams from nearly all the larger cities to Bradstreet's announce an improved feeling as to the outlook for general trade. At most points with the arrival of better weather there has been an increased number of sales in dry goods and other staples, although interior purchasers do not appear to be taking goods in excess of immediate wants in any instance. Dry goods jobbers at Eastern markets continue to find cause for some encouragement, while commission agents report their trade relatively flat.

The check put on the movement of merchandise by the striking employees of the Gould railways has disturbed trade in the region tributary to those roads, particularly at St. Louis. In some lines of business at the larger Western cities renewed activity is apparent.

The commercial demand for funds at Chicago and elsewhere West has increased, for the above reasons, and traders have been inclined to look with more favor on the prospects for business during the latter part of 1885.

INDUSTRIAL SITUATION.

The industrial situation in the East is rather worse than better. The Pittsburgh region soft-coal miners, variously representing from 6,000 to 9,000 in number, have stopped work, demanding 3 cents instead of 2 cents per bushel. The carpet-weavers' strikes near Philadelphia and at Yonkers, N. Y., are unrelieved, while in addition to the former industrial troubles in New England there is more talk before the necessity for shutting down the cotton mills, owing to the unprofitableness of the business. An encouraging sign (very guardedly admitted) is the improved feeling in the general Eastern pig-iron trade. No advance in prices is expected in the near future, and no "boom" in any event, but makers and their agents are inclined to look more favorably on the situation and outlook.

The Produce Exchange Weekly to-night says of winter-killed wheat, that "Illinois and Kansas, Southern Ohio and Indiana are the chief winter-killed States." The weekly reported, March 7, that the probable loss in Kansas was 15 percent, and in Southern Ohio from the cause named, and reduced area, half a crop; and that the loss in Indiana was serious, but indeterminate. It inquires this week show nothing further.

Nearly all grocery staples are weak. Coffee, sugar, and spices are lower and distribution no heavier. Butter is lower and cheese barely steady.

WOOL.

The Market in Buyers' Favor—Effect of War Rumors in Europe.

Boston, March 14.—The Advertiser in its weekly review of the wool market says: The market has been quiet, and values are in buyers' favor. Manufacturers are generally halting in their purchases, and are taking more sample bags than round lots. Dealers are offering to sell at